THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The select parameters of the Indian financial markets are presented below:

Sl.No.	Description	Reference period		Amount
1	Outstanding Gross Demand and Time Liabilities of Banking System	As on March 31,	2006	Rs 24,56.137 crore
2.	Outstanding Bank Credit	As on March	2006	Rs 15,07,077 crore
3.	Market capitalisation of BSE	As on March	2006	Rs 30,22, 1-91 crore
4.	Turnover on Exchanges (Cash Segment)	2005-06		Rs. 23,90,103 crore
5.	Turnover On Exchanges ' (Derivatives segment)	2005-06		Rs 48,24,259 crore
6.	Turnover on G-Secs	2005-06		Rs. 17,83,531 crore
7.	First Year Premium by Life Insurance Companies	2005-06		Rs 38,785 crore
8	Gross Premium by General Insurers	2005-06		Rs 20,358 crore
9.	Forex Market Turnover	2005-06		US$546.03 billion
10.	Foreign Exchange Reserves	As on March	2006	US$151 62 billion

(b) The differences in social, economic and political structures of India and China are reflected in their financial markets. Some segments of the financial markets in India are more developed than those in China.

(c) and (d) A series of reforms have been undertaken to promote and develop the financial markets in India. This has spurred growth in all segments of the financial markets. Reforms are **a** continuous process. Government is committed to'continue reforms to further promote development of financial markets and the economy.

Release of non-disbursed amount of fiscal assistance facility

†192. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any performing State has requested to release the non-disbursed amount of fiscal assistance facility fund;

(b) if so, whether Rajasthan are not being given the loans of externally aided schemes through Public Accounts, as recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the reasons for not giving the loan assistance to Rajasthan for the year 2006-07 as yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Some States have requested for pro-rata distribution of the non-disbursed amount of Fiscal Reforms Facility Fund.

(b) External loans do not flow to the States through the public account but through the Consolidated Fund of India. This is in line with the decision of Government of India while considering the recom mendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission.

(c) Government of India has released Rs. 388.27 crore (Rs. 141.82 crore as grant and Rs. 246.45 crore as loan) as Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects to Rajasthan in 2006-07 as on 22.2.2007.

New bank branches in rural areas

†193.-SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new branches of banks opened in rural areas by Government during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to open more branches of banks in rural areas during the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Bank-wise details of the number of branches opened by the Public Sector Banks in the rural areas of the country during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) and (c) As per the Branch Authorisation Policy of RBI issued in September, 2005, banks have been given freedom to submit their branch Expansion Plans to RBI for approval on annual basis during the year.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.